



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
*1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

February 7, 2003

The Honorable Mike Cooper, Chair
Committee on Fisheries, Ecology & Parks
Post Office Box 40600
302 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Cooper:

I am writing as the chair of the State Board of Health to share the Board's support for House Bill 1412, scheduled for a hearing before the House on February 7. The Board is already committed to working on the issues that would be addressed by the proposed Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council. The bill would put the Board in a good position to do even more—and the Board would very much appreciate that opportunity.

It is appropriate for the Board, which is mandated to recommend health policy for the state, to staff the committee. The goals of the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council are consistent with the Board's past and present priority work areas: children's health and well-being, environmental health, environmental justice, and health disparities. In fact, the Board has recently begun reviewing its primary and secondary school rules (Chapter 246-366 WAC) with the goal of improving public health responses to school indoor air quality concerns.

HB 1412 would permit the Board to solicit and spend public and private funds to support the advisory council. If given this assignment, the Board would make every reasonable effort to raise external funds. There is, however, no guarantee of success. If the Board is not successful in finding adequate funding, it might find itself unable to do as thorough a job as we would like.

To preclude this possibility, I would respectfully suggest a small amendment to HB 1412, that was included in Substitute Senate Bill 5060, that gives the Board flexibility regarding beginning the work when funding becomes available:

Amend section 4, to begin section 4 with "As soon as specific funding is provided to the State Board of Health, to provide staff support for the council," before "the advisory council shall:"

If HB 1412 passes, the Board will report to you on the status of funding obtained. Please be assured that even if funding is not received, the Board will pursue the intent of HB 1412 to the extent possible using existing funding, within the context of required rule revisions and policy priorities.

Thank you for your consideration, and for this exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Lake".

Linda Lake
Chair, Washington State Board of Health

cc: Senator Rosa Franklin
House Fisheries, Ecology & Parks Committee Members
Ms. Ree Sailors, Governor's Office of Health Policy
Mr. Bill White, Department of Health
Ms. Patty Hayes, Department of Health
Washington State Board of Health Members
Mr. Don Sloma, State Board of Health